This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

Google books

https://books.google.com

DT
944
K67G93
1901

GUEST

ANGLO-BOER WAR

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

THE ANGLO-BOER WAR.

SECOND EDITION.

VICISSITUDES OF A TRANSVAAL DORP.

LERKSDORP.

Printed and Published by H. M. Guest, Klerksdorp, Transvaal.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

THE ANGLO-BOER WAR.

VICISSITUDES

OF A

TRANSVAAL DORP.

KLERKSDORP.

KLERKSDORP:
PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY H. M. GUEST, "MINING RECORD" OFFICE.

1901.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

DT
944
K6G3
1901

The following pages describe as accurately as possible the experiences of Klerksdorp during the period just prior to and during the War, and is probably a fair example of what took place in other Transvaal towns during that time. The information is derived from Diaries kept by residents, the personal communications of Dutch and English people who remained during the War, and the details of the first British occupation from some of the principal actors. The list of those on Active Service is necessarily incomplete, and the author will be pleased to receive communications on this subject.

H. M. GUEST.

Klerksdorp, Transvaal,
July, 1901.

1906433
Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

SOME PRESS NOTICES.

*"An interesting little pamphlet. * * The story of the vicissitudes only occupy a few pages but these are full of interest, and make most entertaiuing reading."*—JOHANNESBURG GAZETTE.

"Klerksdorp is early in the field, and has found a capable chronicler in Mr. H. M. Guest, who, assisted by diaries kept by residents and the narratives of Dutch and English people who remained during the war, has compiled a very readable brochure."—BLOEMEONTEIN POST.

*"This is a sort of local history of the war, that is to say a history of the war as it affected Klerksdorp. There is a brief resume of the preliminary stages of the struggle which is worth reading for a glimpse it gives of the state of things in the Transvaal during that period. * * The whole forms a very readable chapter in the history of this great and prolonged war."*—EAST LONDON DISPATCH.

"Among the many books on the war not the least interesting is a little brochure issued by 'Private' H. M. Guest, of the MINING RECORD, *Klerksdorp, entitled 'The Vicissitudes of a Transvaal Dorp.' The book is practically a record of Klerksdorp from within during the war, which record is a more interesting one from the fact that the town was twice taken by the British, and was twice in the hands of the Boers. The book forms a useful addition to the war library."* —NATAL WITNESS.

"The pamphlet gives an interesting account of the experiences of Klerksdorp during the period just prior to and during the war."—CAPE ARGUS.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

Mostly Historical.

THOUGH we have neither space nor intention to enter at any length into the events which led up to the war, it will not be out of place to hark back for a brief space into the past, and note some of the signs and portents of the lamentable war which is not even yet finished, and which may linger on for many months yet to come.

It is remarkable that the Dutch, for many years past, have regarded the English people as interlopers in South Africa, and as having no rights of existence other than those which they in their good will and kindness are pleased to confer. These people appear to forget that the first European flag to float in the South African atmosphere was that of Great Britain, hoisted in 1620 by two English sea captains whose ships lay in Table Bay, in the presence of several Dutch vessels lying at anchor by their side. No steps were taken, however to occupy the land, and some thirty years later the Dutch East India Company established a port of call at Table Bay for their ships voyaging to India. The white population which flowed into the new possession was a very tiny trickling streamlet, of a very muddy quality, and during the years which followed, those who remained under the shelter of the Company's guns and forts were practically bondmen, but many pushed their way inland, and established themselves wherever fancy dictated. These adventurous people wandered far afield, away from the restraints of civilisation, communication was difficult, education languished, and being forced to hold their own against the natives by the strength of their right arms, and the superiority of their intelligence, they developed lawless instincts which resented even the attempts at ruling made by their own countrymen. When, early in the late century the country was acquired by the British by right of conquest, cession and purchase, it was but natural that these men, who were a law unto themselves, should view their new governors with an even greater antipathy than those of their own race. Dissatisfaction ensued, and the country being wide, and of

Digitized by Google

almost illimitable depth, the more extreme men struck their tents and trekked away from the alien civilisation, anywhere to get out of reach of the hateful restraints which galled them. The establishment of Republics south and north of the Vaal followed, and the history of those States, which is an endless tale of faction strife and civil wars, show very vividly the deep rooted objection of the trekking Dutch to civilised laws in any shape or form. The peaceful annexation of the Transvaal by the British, was silently acquiesced in by the turbulent burghers, but as soon as they had recovered from the state of paralysis into which the unsuccessful campaign against Seccocoeni, the Zulu menace, and their hopeless bankruptcy had plunged them, an agitation was raised which culminated in the war of independence.

Ostensibly the Dutch leaders were satisfied with the measure of independence which their struggles in that war secured for them, but actually they only considered it in the light of an instalment of a perfect independence of the whole of South Africa under their own flag, and their own rule, and the total withdrawal of the British factor from South African politics. A pamphlet published early in 1882 entitled "De Transvaalsche Oorlog" being a series of articles published in the newspaper, *De Patriot* at the Paarl and recently re-published by the Grahamstown *Journal* abundantly demonstrates this fact.

The pamphlet comments upon the total defeat of Great Britain by the Transvaal arms, and professes devout thankfulness to the Almighty upon their deliverance from the clutches of that avaricious and ungodly nation. It says "England's power has "been repeatedly humbled and beaten. The little respect which "an Africander still had for British troops and cannon is utterly "done away. And England has learned so much respect for us "Africanders that she will take care not to be so ready to make "war upon us again" This is the keynote of the whole series of articles. Utter contempt for Great Britain and an overweening conceit in their own prowess, and this fatal error has been their own undoing. After recapitulating what the Boers had gained by the war the writer sketches out a plan of action for the future, and the establishment of a Bond or Union to work persistently to attain those objects. "The main object" continues the pamphlet, "is the establishment of a South African Nationality." To attain this end the British flag must disappear, and Africanders be on top. The English traders must be starved out by the institution of Africander trading stores and a total boycotting of English stores. The people are exhorted not to buy from any Englishman or Anglicised Africander, nor even from anyone who advertises in an English newspaper. A National Bank must be formed. Fac-

Digitized by Google

tories for the making of arms and ammunition must be established, artillery regiments raised, drilled, and instructed. No land must be sold to Englishmen. A vigorous and relentless war must be waged against the English "gibberish" which they call a language. The Dutch *taal* must be paramount in the Courts, Government offices, Parliament, Churches, schools and the house. It must be made a disgrace to speak English, and English governesses must be regarded as pests of society. With the exception of not selling land to Englishmen this programme has been faithfully adhered to.

The acquisition of the territory to the north of the Transvaal, now known as Rhodesia by the B.S.A. Co. and the straddling of the British power across the country in the Dutch rear was a bitter blow to the fond dreams of Dutch predominance.

The enormous wealth accruing to the Z.A.R. Government by the development of the gold industry, placed in the hands of Paul Kruger and his associates the weapons which they required, and the acquisition of vast stores of arms and ammunition was commenced in the early part of last decade. The Dutchman had got his back up against a wall as it were. There was no longer an open country in the rear to retreat to, and it became evident that a deadly struggle was impending, though moderate men of both races hoped against hope that violence would be averted, and that the two races might agree to live together in peace and harmony. The Jameson Raid gave Paul Kruger the excuse he needed, and he threw off the mask of secrecy and made his preparations for the struggle openly.

Digitized by Google

Rumours of War.

FROM that time until war was actually declared, the whole of South Africa was torn and distracted with rumours of war, and the atmosphere became periodically overcast with war clouds. On several occasions war was only avoided by a miracle, the action of the Colonial Government on the well-known Drift question only being prevented from resulting in war by the backing down of the Z.A.R. War was freely talked of in the back districts, and the Z.A.R. authorities appeared bent upon provoking hostilities. Two or three years before the war some excitement was caused by the calling in of the Martini Henry rifles with which the burghers had just been armed, and the issue of the Mauser, which was expected to prove quite irresistible in the hands of the burghers.

The year 1899 dawned amid gloomy and depressed surroundings. So far as Klerksdorp was concerned, mining had steadily declined and commerce had rapidly retrogaded, and the future looked stormy, both as regarded politics and also bread earning. In the last week of 1898, a man named Edgar was shot at Johannesburg, by a policeman who broke into his house to arrest him on a charge of alleged murder. Edgar was quite innocent of the offence, and the shooting was generally believed to have been absolutely unnecessary and unjustifiable, though the policeman was found not guilty of any crime, and Judge Kock practically commended him for the zeal he had displayed. This incident created a deal of resentment among the uitlanders, who felt that their lives were at the mercy of any ignorant armed policeman. It is noteworthy that this outrage was destined to be the cause of Great Britain taking a firm stand and resolving to establish its supremacy in South Africa by calling upon the Z.A.R. to comply rigidly with the terms of the Pretoria Convention, many clauses of which the Republic had undoubtedly persistently contravened. An open air meeting of Britishers was held in Johannesburg to protest against the matter, and Messrs. Clem. Webb and Dodd, officials of the

Digitized by Google

South African League were arrested for contravention of the Public Meetings Act in connection therewith. This unprovoked hostility of the Government aroused the indignation of the British subjects on the Rand, and a public meeting was held on the 14th January in the Amphitheatre to discuss the position and decide what steps to take to protect themselves from the menacing attitude of the Government officials This meeting was deliberately broken up by an organised gang of Boer ruffians, undoubtedly employed for the purpose, and prominent among the gang were seen and recognised men who, owing to their official positions, should have been engaged in preserving the peace. Nothwithstanding the riot which ensued, the outcome of this meeting was the drafting of a petition to Her Majesty the Queen, setting forth the grievances and disabilities under which British subjects laboured, and throwing themselves upon the protection of their own government. The Boers no doubt, considered they had done an excellent thing, and completely squelched the Britisher by their violence, but they have since been undeceived. That petition was signed by 21,683 British subjects. The matter was almost forgotten towards the end of January and February, in the excitement of an incipient boom, but while the share market waggled, and speculators lost and won, the petition was speeding on its way to the proper quarter. In May a sensation was created by the arrest in Johannesburg of a number of men who were alleged to have conspired to surprise and capture the Johannesburg fort. The veracious *Standard and Diggers News* made the statement that these men were members of the South African League and some of them British officers. It transpired that the prisoners were most of them Government detectives and the whole thing a bogus affair, engineered by the police. In June was held the Conference at Bloemfontein between Sir Alfred Milner and President Kruger. The results were practically nil. Sir Alfred stated the British idea of a solution of the difficulty was a reduction of the franchise term of probation to five years, and also intimated that when that had been sanctioned other matters would be discussed. The President and the Raad would not or could not get into line with this reasonable suggestion of the British Government, and it soon became evident that the matter had now become not one of franchise or dynamite monopoly, but that Great Britain had awoke to the fact that her position in South Africa was being seriously and deliberately menanced by the Boer Government, and that the latter's sole aim and object was the total elimination of the British element from South African affairs.

This naturally created a puzzling situation for British subjects. War was not an every day occurrence, and the circumstances in which Britishers found themselves was a most difficult one. Many

Digitized by Google

could not make up their minds that war was really inevitable. Up till the last moment there were those who honestly believed that the last dread resource of arms would be avoided. On the 20th September the Mining Commissioner of Klerksdorp privately advised a friend that he did not believe war would happen. Another Transvaal official who afterwards became Landdrost of Vryburg under Boer rule stated that war would not occur, though his reason was the somewhat curious one that the English would funk it, as they had no soldiers of her own and were even then scouring Australia, Canada, and other places for a few men to defend themselves with! The local Britishers met in their houses and at street corners to discuss the situation and counsel each other as to plan of action, but the utmost confusion of opinion prevailed. A prominent resident wrote to the British Resident asking for advice and counsel in the difficult position. That official replied that to do so would pre-suppose that war was inevitable, and he could not throw any light on the duty or correct conduct of British subjects in their embarrassing position, so that individuals were forced to think and act for themselves. On the 22nd August the local paper, the *Klerksdorp Mining Record* announced its last issue in the following terms:—

"The situation has now advanced to such a stage that we have come to the conclusion that the time has arrived for the *Record* to suspend publication for a time and until the troubles in which the State is now involved have disappeared, and a more peaceful and prosperous state of things begin to dawn.

"Business is absolutely at a standstill in the printing department, advertisements are a thing of the past, and everyone is so engrossed in the work of providing for the yet darker time coming, that they cannot afford to indulge in anything but the bare necessities of life, besides which our staff is under orders to hold themselves in readiness for active service, and any moment may be called away from their typographical duties. Added to this, the sentiments of the *Record* are and have been for the ten years of its existence distinctly progressive, and of a strong English flavour, and though in the past its criticisms of Transvaal methods and systems have been received, on the whole, as the honest opinions of a candid critic, we do not consider it advisable to continue the regular publication of such opinions at a time when feeling is running as high as at present, and when an explosion may not be far distant."

This extract accurately represents the position of the town at that time. The Government was busy storing up supplies of food stuffs, Mausers were being exchanged for Martinis, and during the few subsequent weeks the streets were periodically thronged with Dutchmen coming in from their farms receiving rifles and ammu-

Digitized by Google

nition. Some stir was occasioned by the arrival of a package at the Railway station which was rumoured to contain a Creusot or French gun of enormous calibre, but investigation resolved it into the harmless cylinder of a diamond washing machine imported for the Gold and Diamond Company.

During September rifle practice was continuously indulged in by the burghers who had been supplied with new weapons. Targets were made of stones on the hillsides, and the noise of rifle shots were heard on all sides from morning till night. Business was at a standstill, and it began to slowly dawn upon Britishers that war was at hand, and that the Transvaal was no place for them. The rush from Johannesburg began in August, and a few left Klerksdorp in that month. It was amusing to hear the Dutch people remark upon the "cowardice" of the English people in running away, though of the men who were leaving the country, the large majority took up arms as soon as possible after crossing the border, and stood ready to fight for Queen and Empire. Many had wealth, and postponed the leaving of their worldly-all as long as possible, some could not make up their minds to make such a sacrifice, and face the unknown, without means or prospects in a strange Colony, and sought permits to remain. Some obtained them and remained, but only to endure suspense and anxiety and the humiliation of being compelled to assist their enemies by acting as policemen to guard the town from Kafir thieves and robbers, and in other ways help the Government, and also to take oaths of neutrality in the war waged by their own countrymen against their common enemy. As the month of September drew to a close a perceptible change was noticed in the social attitude of many of the Dutch residents towards their English friends, which augured ill for the welfare of those who had elected to and were allowed to remain behind, but everyone buoyed themselves up with the hope and belief that the war would be of short duration, and that their troubles would soon be over.

At the end of September the mustering of the Klerksdorp commando commenced, the date and place of muster being the 1st October, on the Market square, each man to provide himself with horse and equipment and eight days provisions. For two or three days prior to the parade the town was a scene of much activity, as not only the town but the district burghers had also to present themselves in a fit state to be converted into food for the "villainous saltpetre." The burghers responded readily to the call to arms, for they had filled themselves up with stories of the enjoyable picnic which lay before them. The stores of Mafeking were to be theirs to deal with as they liked, and the wealth of Kimberley, was it not at their disposal also? Many burghers pictured to

Digitized by Google

themselves the particular stores of Kimberley they intended to appropriate, and the glittering gems in De Beers' store rooms were reckoned as good as taken. And as to the few despicable British who were foolish enough to try to prevent them, did not one of their own Raad members himself say that 50,000 of them would only be a breakfast for the Boer army? So young and old, rich and poor rallied to their country's standard, equipped and armed, ready and willing to sweep their despised enemies from the face of the earth. General Piet Cronje came from Pretoria and personally saw a portion of the column move off, he himself going on in a spider drawn by four horses.

On the 7th October the first commando left amid the tearful good-byes of those left behind, and the Britishers still remaining began to feel that war was drawing very near, and to become very serious and concerned as to their own position. Fieldcornet Andries Cronje, a brother of General Piet Cronje was in command of the Klerksdorp forces. "Oom Andries" as he is generally called by Boer and Briton alike has always been generally liked by everyone. As a warrior he was held in high esteem by his brother burghers, having commenced his martial adventures while yet in his teens in the fighting against Moshesh with the Free State forces, and was present at the assault on Thaba Bosigo when Commandant Wepener was killed, in the early sixties. He had been in twelve campaigns, and though he always acted most fairly to Britishers both before and during the war, and was progressive and liberal in his ideas, he went at his country's call and did his duty as a brave commander.

On the 10th October news was spread about the town that the Government had sent an ultimatum to Great Britain demanding that all troops be immediately withdrawn from the borders and all movements of troops towards the borders be stopped. Though everyone had almost accustomed themselves to the prospect of hostilities, still there had always been a faint glimmer of hope that by some mysterious means, the opposing forces would fall on each other's necks and murmur terms of peace and endearment. The ultimatum destroyed all these hopes, and people set their teeth hard and prepared to face a miserable future.

Digitized by Google

War.

ON the 13th October war began, and martial law was declared. A few days previous a proclamation was issued requiring that all male British subjects unprovided with permits to remain must leave the country, and many who had thought they would be allowed to stay were compelled to go, in some cases having to leave wives and families behind them. Those who obtained permission to remain were requested to sign a declaration of obedience to the laws of the country and to enrol in the Town Guard. Patrolling of the town at night by the Town Guard was commenced, the town being divided into districts or wards. Officers were appointed and each man was assigned his duties. Natives were required to be indoors by 7 p.m. and whites at 9 p.m. unless provided with a permit or the password. Hotels and bars were prohibited from selling liquor to anyone, under heavy penalties, and every endeavour was made to maintain law and order.

Rumours of fighting soon began to circulate. One sensation was that the British at Mafeking had tried to run a train load of dynamite into Cronje's laager, but the train stopped and then ran back into Mafeking of its own unassisted free will and accord, where it blew up and laid the town in fragments, destroying every living soul in it. The more devout Boers acknowledged this as the visible and outward manifestation of the Almighty's alliance with them and their cause, but there were others who had their doubts about the whole matter. Rumours of Boer victories came n thick and fast, the general complaint being that the British would not fight but always ran away.

The news of the disaster to the armoured train near Mafeking and its capture by the Boers came promptly to hand. Three Boers were stated to be killed, the British loss being a large number killed and wounded, and 31 prisoners taken.

The Scandinavian Corps, 150 strong, which was annihilated t Magersfontein, passed through *en route* for Mafeking on the 7th, arriving in Klerksdorp by special train.

Digitized by Google

A number of people who had been sent to the border returned shortly afterwards, the Orange River bridge having been blown up, and traffic stopped, but were sent out *via* Lorenzo Marques. A number of British subjects who had fondly imagined they would be allowed to remain were sent off, among them being the Rev. J. H. Nield, Wesleyan minister, and Rev. Pigrum, Church of England clergyman, both essentially men of peace, but pronounced Britishers, and this was their only crime. Mr. W. G. Morton happened to remark to some one that the war would be over in three months, and he was packed off. Messrs. Shepherd, sen. and jun., A. E. Lucas, P. Smith, F. Melvill and several others were also selected as pro-Britishers and given their marching orders, and the British ranks were becoming considerably thinned.

On the 18th the big Creusot 96-pounder, named Long Tom arrived by train, and left the following morning for Mafeking.

By this time all communication with the outside world, except through the medium of that truth-loving paper the *Standard and Diggers News* was cut off, the *Leader* and *Star* having closed down on the 12th.

The office and plant of the *Klerksdorp Mining Record* were commandeered by the Boers and practically confiscated, a manager and workman being appointed who between them printed daily official items of war "news" or "lies" The establishment was called the Staats Drukkery, and the legitimate proprietor has now in his possession a Christmas card sent by the manager and staff of the Staats Drukkery, Pretoria, to the manager and staff of the Staats Drukkery, and this mis-appropriation was no doubt instrumental in preserving the office from damage.

Those in a position to do so had laid in stocks of food and other necessaries, but as neither side had apparently made any brilliant progress, things began to look serious for the poorer inhabitants. The Dutch minister who had gone to Mafeking with the commando, returned towards the end of October, and delivered an address in the church in which he dwelt at length upon British atrocities and inflamed the Boer mind by the detailing of a lot of stories detrimental to the British which had no firmer foundation than the perverted fancies of wilfully distorted imaginations On the 22nd disturbing rumours of the fighting in Natal commenced to circulate. A wire was posted on the Government buildings that there had been heavy fighting at Dundee, the Boer loss being 100 killed, and many wounded, the British casualties enormous. The next day it was rumoured that 1,000 Boers were missing, two guns lost and Gen. Kock taken prisoner. This General Kock was an Executive member, filling the position of minute keeper, of very

Digitized by Google

pronounced anti-British views. Another engagement was reported in which 700 Boers engaged 10,000 British troops, the losses on both sides being severe. This was followed by the news that the British were in full retreat, and that the Boers had taken Dundee. A wire posted up at the public offices stated that the English had left all their dead to the tender mercies of the jackals, and all their possessions to the Boers. Rumours of Boer reverses at Kimberley also came to hand, coupled with the report that Cronje was leaving Mafeking, and going to do wonders at Kimberley. Reports of British atrocities, such as murdering wounded Boers, and firing on ambulances were very prevalent, all of which the Dutch, even the better class, implicitly believed and were never weary of repeating to their horrified neighbours and friends. On the 28th it was notified that no more telegrams would be posted up as the news made people anxious, which was a grain of comfort to the isolated Britishers. But the next day policemen were sent round to tell the people that the Boer losses to date were three killed, and the British 1,900, and that they had no time to send more news, as all the Boers were busy burying the English dead who were left on the field as they fell. A wire was received on the 31st that an action had been fought at Modderspruit, the Boer loss being nil, and the British losing 1,000 killed and 1,400 taken prisoners. A scare prevailed in Durban owing to the proximity of the Boers, and the Boer flag waved over nearly the whole of Natal.

All through November the most colossal lies were circulated by the *Standard and Diggers News* and local Boers. The Lancers had been totally destroyed. The British general had asked for 500 Boer wagons to cart their dead away, soldiers were being flogged to the front, Kimberley had fallen flat, Ladysmith taken, and many other similarly nonsensical falsehoods were spread about.

It was also rumoured that Lukas Meyer's commando had been defeated, and that the general ran away so fast that he broke a blood vessel. The attempt to take Mafeking was reported to be abandoned, and a containing force only to be left there, the remainder leaving for other parts. All sorts of yarns about Baden-Powell's pleasantries were told. One was that he had invited Cronje to dinner and upon his refusing sent word that while the Boers were wasting ammunition he was sitting drinking champagne. The Boers say he is the most cheeky Englishman they have ever known.

Over 2,000 men returned from Mafeking and were entrained, presumably for Kimberley direction. Every burgher was also taken from this part, only foreigners and a few British subjects being permitted to remain at home. All farm work was at this time being done by women and children and kafirs. In some cases wagons have been driven into town by women.

Digitized by Google

December began with the usual crop of Boer romances. Two thousand English were killed at Modder River and only 100 Boers killed. The war was to be finished by Dingaan's Day. Countless thousands of English were killed at Scholtz's Nek (Magersfontein), and a hundred other manifest romances were retailed to the great satisfaction of the Dutch residents and the indignation of the Britishers. The 17th December was officially ordered to be celebrated as a day of thanksgiving for all the glorious victories vouchsafed to the Boer armies. The *Standard* informed its readers that English soldiers were deserting to the Boer lines and asking to be made prisoners, also that 3,000 English were killed at Colenso. Nothwithstanding the victories, just before Christmas a lot of schoolboys were commandeered, but their parents would not let them go. A burgher wrote to his wife at Christmas to say that at Magersfontein the Boers lost nearly all their horses and 60 or 70 men killed and 300 wounded.

The new year opened very dull and dreary. In spite of the brilliant Boer victories it was manifest that they were making very little progress. Fresh spurts of commandeering were made occasionally, and men who had succeeded in evading conscription were hauled off to the front. The news of the relief of Kimberley and Ladysmith, and Cronje's disaster at Paardeberg broke the monotony of life. The latter was very severely felt in Klerksdorp, as nearly the whole of the local commando were with him, and though it was impossible to get reliable news, there was no doubt that a serious blow had been dealt to the Boers. A solace was afforded to the Boers by the circulation of a rumour that the trains conveying Cronje and his men to Capetown had been captured by friendly Colonial Boers and that the released men were on their road home, but they never came. Hundreds of burghers secretly returned to their farms on the pretext of getting fresh horses, and the officials had some trouble in getting them back to the front again. Some of the returned warriors did some record sprinting, and turned up home in a deplorable condition, clothes torn and missing, minus horses and often boots. Some of the men complained bitterly of short rations while on the sprint home, the Boer women refusing to give them anything to eat at the farms they passed because they were cowards. The natives along the track of the fugitives were simply robbed.

The Boer women coming into town for news of their husbands, sons, brothers and lovers were a sad sight. The officials either did not know or would not tell what had become of them, and the poor creatures had to return to their lonely farms in ignorance of the fate of their male relatives.

Digitized by Google

Early in March a number of Dutch prisoners and a few English were brought in from Bechuanaland. They were British subjects, and had refused to recognise the Boer annexation or to take up arms. As they left the station bound for Pretoria, they stood up in the trucks and sang "Rule Britannia," with enthusiasm. Towards the end of the month rumours began to arrive of the presence of British troops in the Free State which made the Boer officials very uneasy.

A little incident of British boyish loyalty deserves record. A party of Boer artillerymen while encamped in the town took a Maxim to pieces to clean it. A little English lad observed this, and determined to do something to help the Empire, so watching his opportunity, he surreptitiously picked up one of the pieces and ran home with it, burying it in the garden. His feeling of pride at having disabled an enemy's gun was overpowering though quite pardonable.

In May came the news of the occupation of Kroonstad by the British, and rumours of British forces approaching were prevalent. The Government moved all foodstuffs and other supplies away, and men were stationed in the town to blow up the railway when the last train left. Andries Cronje and his commando returned from Fourteen Streams where they had been forced back by the British. On the 15th May all Britishers, men, women, and children, were ordered to quit the country *via* Delagoa Bay. As most of them were women and children, and the majority penniless, this was a serious matter. There is little doubt that the Landdrost, W. H. Neethling, was responsible for this order. The Dutch women were shocked at the arbitrary and useless order, and were very angry. Andries Cronje was also very annoyed and wired to Pretoria for a cancellation of the order and the result was that only four families left. The officials evidently considered the situation was serious, and at the end of the month sent all Government books, papers, and money to Pretoria. The rumours of British scouts and patrols along the Vaal river began to pall, and at the end of May no one believed anything about it. The obnoxious Landdrost went north however, so he evidently believed the time was drawing nigh to begin the strategical retirement, and this added to the see-saw state of divided opinion

Digitized by Google

Arrival of the British.

ON the 7th June the local officials were startled by the receipt of the following wire :—

From Captain Lambart, Hartebeestfontein. To General Cronje, Klerksdorp.

I am coming to you with a message from Lord Roberts, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army. I want you to meet me and give me an audience.

The general public did not hear of this at the time, but just before 5 p.m. a rumour ran round the town like an electric spark that the khakis were in town. The statement was received with incredulity, until a cart with three British officers drove up to the Tivoli, flying a white flag, The excitement was tremendous. The British were nearly frantic with joy, and the excitement was heightened by the fact that one of them was a young lad who had left just before the war, a son of the editor and proprietor of the local newspaper, and who of course was well known to almost every resident. The officers were Captain H. Lambart, and Lieut. Blagden and the guide and orderly Corporal E. Guest, all of H. Squadron of the Kimberley Mounted Corps. Capt. Lambart met General Cronje and informed him of the proclamation regarding surrender of arms and ammunition, and pointed out that surrender was now the proper course. Another meeting was held in the evening with the officials, when Capt. Lambart pointed out the advantages of surrender and the penalties for not doing so, adding that a British force of some 20,000 men was but a few hours behind him. He also stated that Pretoria was in British hands, which the Boer officials were not aware of.

On the morning of the 8th, General Cronje called a meeting of officers from the different laagers to meet Capt. Lambart at 8 a.m. At this meeting it was resolved to give up the struggle and surrender, and in the evening they formally did so. All this time there were only the three British soldiers in the town. The railway station was taken possession of that evening, and 140 trucks. The telegraph instruments were also rendered useless.

The next morning, Lieut Blagden and Corpl. Guest having gone out to bring in the remainder of the squadron, Capt. Lambart

Digitized by Google

hoisted the Union Jack on the flagstaff of the public buildings, and received the surrender of a commando of about 500 armed Boers. There was something thrilling and theatrical in this scene, which may be said to be quite unique in the history of the present war. The Britishers present could scarcely credit their senses. That the war which up till then had been officially declared to be running all in the Boer favour to collapse, as far as they were concerned, in such a simple manner appeared incredible. Yet there was the glorious old Union Jack flying in the breeze where the vierkleur had so long waved. There was the solitary British officer standing under its shadow, and there was the crowd of Boers laying down their arms at his feet, and there could be no mistake about it.

The crowd cheered, and sang "God save the Queen" in true British fashion and people congratulated each other on the termination of their troubles. All day men came forward crowding together and handing in rifles and guns of all patterns. Many a burgher heaved a sigh as he laid down the weapon with which the British Empire was to be destroyed, and women tearfully handed in the weapons of lost husband or son. The next day 33 men, the whole of Capt. Lambart's squadron under his personal command, entered the town, and it must be chronicled that the slenderness of the force did much to disillusionise the Britishers and to temper the joy which the enthusiastic proceedings of the day previous had induced.

During the next few days the little band of plucky Britons were kept busy taking the surrender of the burghers as they came in, and relieving them of their arms and munitions of war. In all nearly 2,000 weapons were handed in and 1,200 were piled in one heap on the tennis court behind the Landdrost's office, soaked with parafine and tar, and burnt, one solitary trooper of the K.M.C. acting as guard over the bonfire.

Lord Roberts wrote to Capt. Lambart expressing his pleasure at the occupation of the town, and General Hunter forwarded a despatch in which the following passage occurs:- "I am sure the coolness, judgment, and skill you have shown in your arrangements and negotiations with the deputations of the burghers will elicit from the Commander-in-Chief his entire appreciation. I congratulate you on your extraordinary luck and success."

Capt. Lambart was appointed Commandant and Provost Marshal and other officers were appointed to the necessary work of the town. Mr. J. H. Voss, a former resident of Klerksdorp, was appointed R.M.; C. J. Rothman, sen., a law agent, who had taken the oath of neutrality, was made Public Prosecutor; Sergt. Hill, the local Zarpian chief, was continued in his position, and the Dutch gaoler retained his keys.

Digitized by Google

A number of people, Dutch and foreigners, who had been loyal Republicans till this time, and made a virtue of being British haters, now suddenly discovered that they had been labouring under a delusion, and that they were actually Britishers of the deepest dye, and it may be added that a few weeks later these people regretted they had been so previous.

The small garrison of thirty Kimberley troopers continued to hold the town and perform scouting and patrol duties until the 19th when the Royal Fusiliers and some artillery came in, but they only remained a few days and the small squadron was again left to perform the work of occupying and overaweing a district as big as Wales, peopled with a hostile population. There is no doubt that Capt. Lambart proved himself to be a man of infinite resource and genius, and during his short term of sovereignty worked wonders. Vast stores of mealies and forage were collected from the rich Schoonspruit district and despatched to Pretoria for military use, large flocks and herds of stock were brought in, and numbers of horses were commandeered, receipts being given for same, and as many of the holders of these receipts took up arms again, they were a cheap lot of nags. Notwithstanding the smallness of the garrison, the district was efficiently patrolled, in addition to the manifold other duties incidental to the garrisoning of a town and controlling of a district. The Captain was here, there and everywhere, and appeared to know everything and inspired so much confidence in the people that a grand ball was got up in honour of the "cessation of hostilities," among the lady patronesses of which were the wives of the leading British residents who had stayed through the war and also the wives of several burghers of British birth, though the Dutch people kept aloof from the affair. The ball "caught on" and great preparations were made for the commemorative event, which was timed for the 18th July, but before that time arrived doubts and fears arose in the people's minds, and the "grand ball" collapsed ignominiously.

Supplies became very scarce during the occupation and prices ruled very high. Sugar and parafine were unobtainable, soap 3/6 per lb. and every other necessary in similar proportion.

Towards the middle of July disquieting rumours began to be prevalent and the consequent uneasiness was added to by nearly the whole adult male population being ordered out to patrol the district. They went out on two occasions, but no Boers were seen.

On the 21st all British subjects and foreigners were ordered to register themselves, and in the evening they were required to go to the Public Buildings upon the ringing of the alarm bell to be armed, the scouts have reported Boers in the vicinity. They were

Digitized by Google

ordered to muster in the square next morning before daylight, and take up a position on a hill overlooking the town. Nothing happened however, and the guard marched back after daylight. During the day, the scouts reported having seen about 60 Boers with a cannon about 7 miles out. A number of the Boer officials, having been suspected of treating with the enemy were arrested and put in prison.

Digitized by Google

The Surrender.

ON the morning of the 25th July, two detachments of the Kimberley Mounted Corps, 10 and 15 strong respectively, were posted on hills north and south of Kimberley road, where it passes through the Old Town. On the hill overlooking the Railway Station was stationed the civilian guard to the number of 60 or 70. As daylight dawned a party of men were seen coming from the direction of Hartebeestfontein, in number about 150. At first the men on the Old Town kopjes mistook them for Yeomanry, but upon a nearer advance they were seen to be Boers. A small party took up a position some 600 yards from the small detachment on the kopje on the north side of the road, and the remainder occupied a hill further south commanding the British post on the south side of the road, whereupon the picket of 15 K.M.C. retired on the town, the other detachment following. Meanwhile a messenger had been sent to the civilian force asking for reinforcements, and a number who were mounted promptly replied, but when they reached the Market square, they found the men they were to assist already retired there, and Boers were advancing along the road from the Old Town towards them. They fully expected orders to fire, but none were given, and as the Boers approached nearer, it became apparent that no stand would be made, and eventually the whole force was informed by Capt. Lambart that he had surrendered the town. The Rev. Strasheim the Dutch Reformed clergyma , who had since the commencement of hostilities developed acute British-hating proclivities, demonstrated them by assisting personally in disarming the K.M.C. troopers.

The civilians on the kopje overlooking the Railway Station. were informed of the surrender, and also that thousands of Boers were advancing on the town, and as there was absolutely no option, they descended the hill, gave up their arms and dispersed.

The Boers made a splendid haul as large stores of forage, corn, mealies, and a quantity of live stock had been collected and stored by the British.

Digitized by Google

There was much rejoicing among the Dutch population at this change in the position of affairs. The women especially were greatly excited and demonstrated their feelings without restraint. The British flag was hauled down and torn to pieces, trampled and spat upon.

The officers of the garrison were confined in their quarters and the men sent to the Sports ground, excepting Corpl. Guest and Trooper Lucas, who being former residents of the town were lodged in gaol. Among others who were put in prison were Mr. C. Whitfield who had been through the siege of Mafeking and only just returned to Klerksdorp. His brother, Mr. David Whitfield who had taken part in the relief of Mafeking, was also gaoled, together with another old resident Mr. J. Poole who had been through the siege of Mafeking and was wounded there. Mr. S. D. Cawood, who had been through the Mafeking siege, returned on the day the Boers took the town, running right into their laager. Lieut Shepherd and two troopers of the garrison who had been out on scouting duty returned the same day with two prisoners they had captured, and were taken into custody. Mr. J. H. Voss, the C.C. and R.M. was also arrested and was not released until six months afterwards.

The Public Prosecutor returned to his Dutch allegiance and fulfilled the same duties for the new masters. The police sergeant also turned chameleon, and was most assiduous in arresting British subjects and those suspected of English sympathies, and the gaoler returned to his Republican love, and locked up the prisoners. The Dutch Reformed clergyman, the Rev. Strasheim not only interested himself in disarming the troopers, but also in imprisoning many of the residents nearly all of whom, except full blooded Boers were arrested, though most of them were afterwards released on bail.

The Dutch people and foreigners who had been so intensely British became once again intensely Boer, and several vied with each other in reviling and abusing those who were made prisoners, some crying "Shoot them, shoot them," but better and wiser counsels prevailed.

All British subjects received notice to appear at the laager with horse, saddle, arms and ammunition to assist the Boers, but of course all refused to do so.

Digitized by Google

The Boer Occupation.

THE Boers resumed occupation, the officials taking their usual positions, several of them being released from gaol for the purpose.

The Kafirs had a very bad time. During the British occupation a number of them had been armed and formed into a sort of District Police. It is very natural, though not excusable, that under British rule the natives let themselves go a little and were not so respectful to their late masters as they should have been. Anyhow the tables were now turned with a vengeance. A number of them were shot on sight, some in the streets of the town, and many were flogged severely.

A few days after the surrender, the military prisoners, and Messrs. C. and D. Whitfield, J. Poole, S D. Cawood, Franken, B. Hirtzel, S. Jacobs, J. Gunn, P. van Lelyveld and three sons were sent to the laager. Mr. J. Donald, jun., though a Transvaal burgher, went with them voluntarily. The other civilians out on bail were very uneasy for some time, as all sorts of sinister rumours were abroad as to their future fate. The British ladies were downcast and miserable, the Dutch ladies were jubilant at the complete change in affairs.

Several other towns in the district were occupied by the Boers, and a feeling of intense hopefulness set in amongst them, many deluding themselves into the vain belief that the British were falling back all along the line and that a pull altogether would suffice to clear South Africa of them. It was said that Lord Roberts and 80,000 men had been recalled, that General French and Lord Kitchener with 6,000 men had been killed, that General Cronje and all his men had been released from St. Helena, by a Russian man-of-war, and were on their way back, and many other similar stories were retailed with great delight.

For a few days the Boers lived on these yarns, but early in August came a report of a reverse and the officials in particular began to wear anxious looks. On the night of the 2nd a scout came in and reported that the British were only ten miles distant

Digitized by Google

and the next morning the officials had totally disappeared. Even the gaoler left for a place of safety and the prisoners, among whom were a few British subjects arrested on frivolous charges were left to their own devices. The men out on bail turned up at the office to report and found it closed, so they wrote their names up on the wall and gathered in groups to discuss the curious situation. Some one hauled down the *vierkleur*, but the women hauled it up again and kept their colours flying. Some Britishers who had gone into hiding and escaped arrest, emerged from their places of concealment, and there was general excitement, every one straining their eyes for a sight of the British column, which alas came not.

Next day, the 4th, the officials evidently plucked up courage, and returned looking very foolish and sheepish, but the "men in hiding" had to get into their burrows again, and the Britishers kept indoors to feed on their disappointment. Reports that the officials intended to clear the Banks of all specie led to the prompt closing of those institutions and the disappearance of the accountants with the keys of the safes.

About the middle of the month a commando of some 100 men with some British civilian prisoners from Potchefstroom entered the town, having been cut off from their laager by a British force. The commandant of this force created a stir by commandeering every horse in the town of any value. The Acting Landdrost ordered the Commandant to disgorge, but the man of war was defiant and refused. Some of the despoiled townspeople went to the camp and kicked up a row, and severe pugilistic encounters ensued, but the commando stuck to the horses and cleared with them.

Provisions of all kinds, and especially groceries were very scarce at this time. Sugar, tea, coffee, soap, candles and matches were unobtainable and most of the poorer people were living entirely on mealie meal porridge, though mealie meal was £5 per bag.

A number of Dutch people attacked Mr. Morton's store on the 27th, smashed it open and searched for clothing. Things were getting serious, and the officials were incapable of maintaining law and order.

On the 8th September, a local commando which left in high feather a month before, returned, on ten days leave they said, but really they had been badly mauled by the British at Fredericksstad, a number of them killed, and for some time they had been chivied about the country by the British.

Scarcity of provisions became more severe as the weeks rolled on. In place of coffee, carrots, peaches and sweet potatoes were roasted and ground. Mixed peaches and carrots were found to make quite a decent coffee, and peaches alone a sort of cocoa.

Digitized by Google

The Dutchwomen broke into Morton's store on the 10th August and cleared out everything in it, though by this time, only silks, velvets, ribbons, and other feministic superfluities were left in the place. The police tried to interfere, but the women laid violent hands upon them, and chased them into the street. There is no doubt that the lot of these women was a very trying one, and many of them were in the direst need. During the war charity had been doled out to them by the Government, but with true Z.A.R. perversity and corruption, most of the food and clothing fell into the hands of the richer people, and the poor came off second best.

A sensation was caused on the 14th by the arrival at full gallop of a number of Boer scouts who reported that they had shot two khakis close to the town and brought in their horses, but it was afterwards discovered that the khakis were some of De Wet's men, in British uniform and the local scouts had actually killed some of their own men, if the shooting really occurred, but there was very small regard for the truth in those days.

At the end of the month the officials were again disturbed by the approach of the British, who came to Buffelsdoorn, 12 miles distant. The officials all cleared out of the town and slept in the veld. It was a false alarm, however, the British had not intended to take the town and retired again.

The scarcity of provisions had its humorous side. Birthday presents, for instance, underwent an alteration to suit the time. A young lady received on her natal day, a pound of sugar, an ounce of tea, and two candles, one pound potatoes, and a packet of salt. The scarcity of matches, too had its comic phases If any lucky Dorpian, who happened to possess a match, struck one to light his pipe, there was a frantic rush of smokers from all sides to light up paper and straw before it burnt out. Sun glasses came into extensive use for kindling purposes, and the old flint and tinder boxes manufactured, bicycle pumps being generally stolen to convert into tinder boxes.

In November all the prisoners, among whom were several British subjects indicted for sundry offences, including the British Magistrate, and a number of Dutchmen who had refused to break the neutrality oaths were sent down to Wolmaranstad, fresh rumours of the approach of the British, having been put into circulation. The officials went out of town to sleep every night to avoid capture, and returned cautiously every morning. A man was arrested for stating that the British were coming, and the Acting Landdrost reprimanded him severely for such base conduct, which he said kept the officials running in and out of town, put them to much inconvenience, and

Digitized by Google

caused them serious anxiety. He was fined £1, to pay which he tendered a £5 Government note and asked for change, but the plan did not work. He had to pay in solid coin. On the 3rd November President Steyn and the celebrated General de Wet visited the town with a few men. A meeting was held on the Market square, and both leaders addressed the burghers and others assembled, in speeches which were distinguished for the great quantity of lies packed in a given compass, and were inconsistent, illogical and foolish, but the Dutch men and women cheered frantically, and listened as if to the voices of the gods.

Ex-President Steyn said—"Fighting is proceeding very successfully for the Republics in spite of numerous lies to the contrary. Up to date we have lost only 1200 men, while the British loss must be quite 50,000 according to their own account, and the Almighty is undoubtedly on our side. The capitalists have already had enough, and England is exhausted, so that they will soon sue for peace. President Kruger has gone to Europe on my advice to wake up the nations, and to tell them of the frightful atrocities committed by the English in the war. The statement that he was driven out and absconded with national money was a lie. It is no doubt for a good and wise purpose that the good Lord checked our triumphal advance at the beginning of the war, in order to humble our pride, and make us remember we are but human. Our Heavenly Father doeth all things well. I call upon everyone present to strike a blow for freedom. What will those who are now prisoners of war say if we tamely submit, and make them and ourselves slaves of England? Though we are fighting against great odds, the Lord is on our side, and our independence is, therefore, assured. If necessary, help will come from quarters whence it is least expected. The war will last a long time, but our Republics will not be lost, so keep up your courage and do not be disheartened. Wars have lasted seven years and then been won, so let this encourage us. The inhuman foe has sent a thousand of our women and children to Barberton to be fed by our government; they spare no one, and their venomous hatred extends to the helpless. My wife is in Bloemfontein, but God will care for her as well as I myself could do. There are patriots who talk very big, but who sit behind the bush when any fighting is to be done—we do not want them, the purifying influence is going on, and we shall soon get to the real patriot. The British are in despair; they seek to subdue us by proclamations, but they will not succeed. I exhort all the women present to remain true to their country, and show their brothers, husbands and sons how to be patriotic."

General de Wet, on rising, removed his hat, saying that the

Digitized by Google

President did not remove his headgear because he was bald, he, however, had lots of hair, and it seemed to him that God always took him by the hair and removed him out of the path of his enemies to the place he wanted to be in. He concurred with what the President had said and continued, "There is a good deal of talk about me all over the world, but the talk is not all true. Some people say I was educated in Europe, and learnt military strategy there, but there is no truth in those reports. I am simply a Free State farmer, and nothing else. I would strongly advise you all to change the principles of your religion, and instead of 'Love your neighbours as yourselves' say and carry out, 'Love your neighbours and hate the English.' You should never trust the British, for they are a nation of thieves and liars. They will ravish our women and take our farms from us. Quite recently, they took three thousand of our women and children, and put them over the border into the veld to shift for themselves. There may be some good Englishmen, but I have met only one, and I believe all the good ones, if any are born, die very young. Do not be afraid of the ultimate result of the war, as large numbers of British troops have already left the country, and most of the towns are in our possession. It is quite certain, however, that when we have driven the English out of the country the capitalists will come back, for they are like pigs after pumpkins in their pursuit of wealth. English armies, 26,000 strong, are after me, and I have 2000, but they will never catch me, and if they do, the war will still go on, as I have nominated a successor as slippery as myself. We are short of foodstuffs, but we will go to the Colony and get supplies from our friends and sympathisers there, and if they are unwilling we will help ourselves, and pay after the war. I am now on my way to the Colony for that purpose. Africanders cannot be neutral, they must be for or against us."

The ex-President appeared to be somewhat dejected and out of sorts, and his manner certainly belied his brave words. De Wet assumed a jaunty, jocular air, and seemed anxious to create an impression that he was well pleased with himself and surroundings. He was photographed, alone and with his staff. Both he and the ex-President were shabbily dressed.

While this flow of oratory was proceeding from the two Boer leaders, a party of Theron's Scouts, about thirty in number, visited the National Bank, where they had discovered an amount was lying to the credit of the British Government. They were armed with hammers, dynamite, rifles and other dangerous things, and demanded the British balance. The manager refused to comply, but the Scouts and their armaments were very persuasive

Digitized by Google

and to avoid worse damage, the keys of the safe were handed over, and all the coin contained therein was taken. The bank officials, however, had anticipated a raid for some time, and had removed most of the bullion to a place of safety, which considerably reduced the haul.

Landdrost Neethling also returned to town, which event cast a gloom over Boer and Briton alike, as he was a terror to Britishers and all who sympathised with them. He deposed all the officials, who it must be said had not shown any vindictiveness, and placed in office men who would play the tune he called for, and those Boers who showed any desire for peace had a bad time.

Reports of the British approach came in thicker and faster, and the Britishers' spirits rose upward in the same degree as those of the Dutch slipped down to zero. Parties of Dutch people standing at street corners with unusually elongated physiognomies and speaking in low whispers was an infallible sign of bad news, and the British rejoiced correspondingly.

On the 13th, some of the prisoners, viz., Messrs. Savage, Vels (R.M. Bothaville), J. H. Voss (R.M. Klerksdorp), J. P. Masureik, J. G. Burslem, G. C. Hooper, S. Jacobs and some others were sent to Wolmaranstad, and it was intended to take some others, but paucity of conveyances prevented it. They were tried there, and Mr. Savage sentenced to death but reprieved, Mr. Hooper fined £100, and the others were banished at intervals. The landdrost and other officials also evacuated the town.

Digitized by Google

Second British Occupation.

ON November 16th the residents of the town were startled early in the morning by the rapid dash through the town from the Potchefstroom road of a body of horsemen in khaki who galloped in and took possession of the hills in the Old Town and other points of vantage. They were speedily followed by a whole brigade under General Barton.

While the excitement was still at its height cannon firing was heard to the north west, and looking out in the direction of Platberg large numbers of men in extended formation could be seen coming over the veld, and in an hour after General Barton's entry General Douglas marched in with another brigade from Lichtenburg. The cannon firing was a little artillery duel between one of General Liebenberg's and some British guns. As General Douglas' column marched past Witpoort, Liebenberg's farm, he brought out his solitary gun and opened fire on the passing column. Gen. Douglas did not, however, deviate from his course but turned out a gun to reply to the cheeky Boer, who was eventually silenced, one of the Boer gunners having a foot shot off. A couple of hours afterwards the Boer ambulance brought the man into town with the request that the British should do something to repair the damage they had done, so the wounded man, was put into the local hospital and attended to, and is now walking about Klerksdorp on crutches. The authorities have also ordered an artificial foot, fitted with the latest mechanical devices.

A number of Dutch residents were arrested for their misdeeds and sent to Pretoria *en route* for other climes, but the officials escaped through their caution in leaving the town when they heard of the British approach. Col. Kekewich of Kimberley defence fame, became Commandant, and the work of placing the town in a state of defence was begun without delay. Small redoubts were constructed on commanding positions, wire entanglements laid down all round the town, streets blocked up at the outside ends with wire fences and trenches. Strict regulations were framed and enforced. No one could move out of town without a permit.

Digitized by Google

No civilian allowed in the streets after 8 p.m. and all lights out at 8.30. The residents other than Boers were formed into a Town Guard, the officers being—Capt. W. Campbell, Lieuts. G. Mc Kessack, E. E. Wills, and J. Poole (Quartermaster). The Guards numbered 60 rank and file and were at first required to muster in some central place every night and remain there, to be called up when required. Afterwards they were put on outpost duty, three nights on and one off, and eventually alternate nights on duty.

The railway to Potchefstroom was repaired and about the end of the month trains were running, bringing the provisions so badly needed.

A commando of Boers under General Liebenberg remained close to the town and for some time small parties continually hovered round taking pot shots at patrols and outposts, and at the present day, notwithstanding their being so frequently broken up and dispersed by British columns, are in the vicinity, occasionally showing themselves, and making it impossible for small parties to wander out of town.

A lot of the poorer Dutch with their families were sent up to Johannesburg to be fed and kept at British expense, these people being literally starving and having no means whatever of obtaining a livelihood. A good deal of the furniture and other property of the Dutch officials and other burghers who had broken their oaths of neutrality and in other ways violated international law was confiscated.

A train was held up by a commando of 400 Boers, with two cannon, not far from town on the 19th December. They loosened a rail which derailed some trucks, but the engine uncoupled and ran forward to the next station where assistance was procured. The passengers and escort of 30 soldiers took cover behind the embankment. Firing ensued, but only one of our men was wounded accidentally, and the Boers retired as soon as the reinforcements hove in sight.

Christmas Day was ushered in with cannon firing at some Boers who appeared on the hills in the neighbourhood. The year closed, however, without any sensation, and the new year came round with the town practically in a state of siege, as except by the railway, it was not safe to wander a mile from the outposts.

A party of raiding Boers were fired on by the outposts on the night of the 30th January, and one of our men was wounded. So far the only Klerksdorpians who had been permitted to return were the Messrs. Shepherd, sen. and jun. whose services were required to bake bread for the troops. After them Mr. J. Munro, manager of Hamilton & Co.'s local business, accompanied by Mr. Blagden, formerly lieutenant in the K.M.C. and who came in with

Digitized by Google

Capt. Lambart and Corpl. Guest, walked right through from Lichtenburg, though the intervening country was occupied by Boers. They travelled at night, and hid themselves in the day, arriving safely in Klerksdorp, but considerably the worse for their perilous and exhausting journey. Early in February, Mr. Guest and one of his sons returned, followed a few weeks later by Dr. Carrick Allan, Mr. J. Hassall, Manager of the Niekerk Co., Rev. J. H. Nield, Wesleyan Minister, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Morton, and H. Falwasser, but the military authorities evidently prefer not to be bothered by civilians travelling about while the country is in a disturbed state.

Lord Methuen's column arrived in Klerksdorp on the 19th February, from Taungs, having had a desperate battle at Hartebeestfontein, some 18 miles distant. Fifteen British and four Boer dead were brought in and buried in the local cemetery, many Boers having also been buried on the spot by our men. Forty wagons, a number of prisoners, five thousand cattle and fifteen thousand small stock were brought in by the column as a result of these operations.

Lord Kitchener came down to confer with Lord Methuen, and there were also present on the station at the same time Lord Chesham and Lord Errol, a gathering of British nobilities and prominent Generals, which no Klerksdorpian, even in his wildest dreams, had ever imagined he would see in the little Transvaal dorp.

At the present time Martial law still remains very much in force in these parts. The military position is such that this is an absolute necessity, and every loyal Britisher is only too pleased to submit cheerfully to any restrictions or restraints the officials deem necessary to impose The officials do all in their power to render their rule as little irksome and burdensome as possible, but evil doers, and those who, by reason of their oblique nature, cannot possibly run straight, have not a very happy time.

Naturally, business is practically at a standstill. Some of the storekeepers have had permission to import a few supplies for the civilian population, the prices of which have been regulated by the military, and also the quantity to be supplied to any one person, there being grave danger that if unrestricted sales were permitted, the Dutchwomen in town would find means of conveying supplies to their husbands who are still on commando and laagered within a short distance of the town. No intoxicating liquor is obtainable in the place, and only one hotel is open, the Tivoli. A little work is being done at the Niekerk, Mr. Hassall being engaged in getting his shafts in order. None of the other mines can be approached by small parties, except the Klerksdorp Gold Mining and Diamond Company, which is one of our outposts and garrisoned by a

Digitized by Google

detachment of the Rand Mine Guard. A large Boer Refugee Camp has been formed between the Sports Ground and the Spruit where a large number of destitute Boer men, women and children were camped. The Exchange premises have been converted into a Hospital for these people when sick, and every care is taken of them, in fact there is much grumbling among some loyalists in consequence of this act of heaping coals of fire on the enemy's heads, but feeling is naturally a little high at the present juncture.

On the 18th May, Douglass Grant, Esq., son of Col. Grant, late of the C.M.R., who has served in a military capacity throughout the war, was sworn in as Assistant Resident Magistrate by W. S Duxbury, Esq., District Magistrate of Potchefstroom. After reading the proclamation of H. E. the High Commissioner establishing Courts of Resident Magistrates in various parts of the Colony, and administering the oath, Mr. Duxbury addressed the public. He congratulated the people of Klerksdorp on the first step which had been taken in the direction of establishing civil administration in this country, and said their thanks were due to the High Commissioner for thus setting the civil machinery in motion. It was only a commencement, but it was a happy augury for the immediate future. The appointments already made were of men of South African experience, who understood the people among whom they were placed. The British policy was never one of oppression, and he looked forward to the time when peace and contentment would prevail in this Colony. The address was received with appreciation and hearty applause.

During the past few weeks a number of British columns have been harassing and wearing down the Boers in the neighbourhood. Col. Williams' column recently visited Hartebeestfontein, which has for a long time been used by the Boers as a base of operations, destroyed all foodstuffs, took the stock, and sent in all the friendly women and children to Klerksdorp, Lord Methuen's, General Babington's and Col. Sir Henry Rawlinson's columns have also patrolled the district, and captured enormous quantities of stock, killed and wounded many of the enemy, and taken numerous prisoners, guns, and munitions of war. The Boers, however, continue active, and occasionally visit our outposts, but there can be no doubt that the end is nearing. Many of the Boers are heartily sick of the war and would surrender but for a few idiotic extreme men who fill them up with lies, and watch them to prevent desertion. The prospects are, however, much brighter, and Klerksdorp's vicissitudes of the war are approaching the end.

May 31, 1901.

Digitized by Google

ADDENDUM TO SECOND EDITION.

In the early part of June, the Boers in the neighbourhood showed considerable activity and audacity, prowling round the town and sneaking any cattle which wandered too far from the outposts, and this state of things prevailed until nearly the end of the month. For two or three weeks firing occurred daily between our outposts and the cattle thieves, and at night also, the sentries were kept on the alert by occasional shots from outside, one or two smart interchanges of rifle firing taking place.

On the 17th Mr. Duxbury, the Magistrate of Potchefstroom, came over to explain the meaning of the oath of allegiance to burghers desirous of becoming British subjects. The Boers found it difficult to believe that the offer was genuine and that they could become full British subjects so easily. They suspected a trick, and cross-examined Mr. Duxbury very closely to try and discover the deception. But their efforts were futile and later about 50 Boers took the oath and became Britishers. On the 25th June a number of British columns entered the town, viz., Col. Sir Henry Rawlinson's, Col. Hickie's, Col. Williams' and Col. Western's, and Gen. Hamilton's column arrived a few days later. Since that time the local Boers have lain very low.

During July, about thirty prisoners of war were retnrned to the town, some being interned in the Refugee Camp, and the more harmless ones allowed to be at large in the town. While on their way down one escaped at Potchefstroom. On the 21st, the three columns under General Featherstonehaugh visited the town again after a trip through the Zwart Ruggens. On the 24th, four other columns under General Elliott came in from the Free State. All these columns brought in prisoners, stock. wagons, and numerous additions to our Burgher Refugee Camp.

July 31, 1901.

Digitized by Google

ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

British Klerksdorpians have done their full share of work in the field, and have demonstrated that their loyalty to Queen and Empire is a real living sentiment. Most of those capable of bearing arms joined some Corps or other, and the following is a list of those whose names we have been enabled to obtain. There are many others, notably former employes of the various mines, of whom no information is forthcoming, but we shall be pleased to receive such names and insert them in future editions of this work. The list gives the names, corps, and rank, as far as it has been possible to obtain them :—

Atkinson, - Kimberley Town Guard.
Adams, B.—Mafeking Staff.
Allen, C.—Transport and Intelligence Departments.
Allen, F.—Troop Sergt Major Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry
Bergstroom, E.—Railway Pioneers
Betton, E. A.—Imperial Light Horse.
Bramley, L.—Lord Roberts' Bodyguard.
Barnes, Arch.—Nesbitt's Horse.
Barnes, W.—Nesbitt's Horse.
Barnes, A. C.—Nesbitt's Horse.
Bartho, J. R.—Kimberley Mounted Corps.
Begbie, J.—Orpen's Light Horse.
Berry, P.—Farrier Sergt. Major Brabant's Horse.
Borrowe, G.—Bethune's Mounted Infantry.
Bottomley, H.—Lieut.-Col. Imperial Light Horse (mentioned in Lord Roberts' despatches)
Burns, J.—Kimberley Town Guard.
Batts, W. H.—Transport Service.
Burslem, J. G.—Army Service Corps.
Charlton, A. W.—Lord Roberts' Bodyguard; Sergeant Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.
Cartledge, W.—Q.M.S. Railway Pioneer Regt; Lieut. Johannesburg Mounted Police (mentioned in Lord Roberts' despatches)
Close, C.—Marshall's Horse.
Campbell, J. L.—Orange River Colony Police.
Cawood, H.—1st City Volunteers; Marshall's Horse; Cape Colony Cyclist Corps.
Cawood, S. D.—Mafeking Town Guard.

Digitized by Google

Campbell, W.—Sergt. Kroonstad Scouts.
Caldecott,—Kitchener's Fighting Scouts (Special Scouts) (wounded Doorn River, Cape Colony, 1901).
Cronje, P.—Intelligence Department
Cullinan, Arthur—O.C. Cullinan's Scouts
Chanoch,—Rand Mines Guard
Donald, J. jun.,—Army Service Corps.
Davey,—Paymaster Sergt. Marshall's Horse.
Daly, A.—Nesbitt's Horse.
Dandruff,—Marshall's Horse
Edmonds, W. L.—Lieut. South African Light Horse (mentioned in despatches).
Faulds, W.—Protectorate Regiment; Brabant's Horse.
Falwasser, H.—Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.
Frames, D.—Capetown Highlanders.
Fraser, Donald—Intelligence Department
Froneman, J.—District Mounted Guards
Greathead, M.—Lance Cpl. Imperial Light Horse (killed.)
Grice, G. V.—Colonial Scouts; N M.R. (died from enteric.)
Guest, Ivor—Lieut. 2nd Railway Pioneer Regt.
Guest, E. L.—1st City Volunteers; Grahamstown Mounted Infantry, Lance Corpl. Kimberley Light Horse (taken prisoner, at Klerksdorp, July, 1900) Sergeant Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.
Goulding, C. F.—Railway Pioneer Regimsnt.
Goulding, H.—Railway Pioneer Regiment.
Goulding, T Transport.
Goulding, G.—Transport.
Gunn, J.—Guide.
Green, E.—Rand Mines Guard
Hanton, A.—Transport Service.
Harris,—Regimental Sergt. Major Grahamstown Mounted Infantry.
Higson, George—Captain Eastern Province Horse (mentioned in Lord Roberts' despatches).
Hamilton, C.— Captain Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry (mentioned in Lord Roberts' despatches).
Hay, Tom—Transport, (killed).
Harvey, H.—Intelligence Department.
Hirtzel, B.—Imperial Light Horse.
Hartley, D.—Imperial Light Horse.
Holland, B.—Sergt. Marshall's Horse
Johnstone, Capt.—Imperial Light Horse (awarded V.C.)
Jones, H.—Brabant's Horse
Jones, Ginger—Imperial Light Horse
Kilroe, Godfrey—Kimberley Town Guard; Rimington's Guides

Digitized by Google

Kilroe, T.—Kimberley Town Guard; Intelligence Department; Marshall's Horse
Konig, F. W.—Intelligence Department
Knust, H.—Sergeant, Brabant's Horse.
Kidwell, L.—Kimberley Light Horse; Nesbitt's Horse.
Kidwell, W.—Nesbitt's Horse.
Kidwell, C. C.—Quarter Master Sergeant Brabant's Horse.
Kidwell, C. A.—Mafeking Town Guard.
Kidwell, C.—Mafeking Town Guard.
Keers, R.—Commander-in-Chief's Bodyguard.
Latham, G.—Imperial Light Horse (mentioned in Lord Roberts' despatches)
Lucas, A. E.—Brabant's Horse; Diamond Fields Horse (taken prisoner Klerksdorp, July, 1900.)
Lowman, H. P.—Rimington's Guides.
Lowman, A.—Transport Service.
Le Sueur, E. M—Rimington's Guides (killed).
Munro, J.—Kimberley Town Guard.
Mackenzie, N.—Prince Alfred's Guard; Scottish Horse.
Milligan, J.—Lieut. Rand Mines Guard
Marsden, W.—Imperial Light Horse
MacEwen, Tom—Diamond Fields Horse.
Meintjes, I. R.—Sergt. Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.
Nield, Rev. J. H.—Chaplain Captain 1st Royal Dragoons.
Oatley, W. H.—Sergeant Major K.L.H. (wounded during siege; mentioned in Lord Roberts' despatches).
Owen, O. W.—Lieut. 2nd Railway Pioneer Regt.
Pigrum, Rev. T. P—Chaplain Captain.
Poole, J.—Mafeking Town Guard (taken prisoner Klerksdorp, July, 1900.)
Poole, P. G.—Rimington's Guides (prisoner after Modder River) Lieut. Army Service Corps.
Paul, J. W.—Volunteer Medical Staff Corps.
Pullinger, H.—Kitchener's Horse.
Rowles, G.—Mafeking Cadet Corps.
Ross, C.—Cape Volunteer Medical Staff, (died of enteric).
Russell, Sam—Imperial Light Horse.
Rendall, Sam Volunteer Medical Staff Corps.
Selkirk, D.—Burghersdorp Mounted Rifles
Screech, C.—Imperial Light Horse.
Scudamore, E.—Prince Alfred's Guard.
Smith, E. J.—Eastern Province Horse; Nesbitt's Horse.
Smith, Harold—Marshall's Horse.
Siddle, G.—1st City Volunteers; Grahamstown Mounted Infantry; Orange River Colony Police, (wounded twice, taken prisoner twice).

Digitized by Google

Smith, W.—Lieut. 2nd Railway Pioneer Regt.
Spalding,—Diamond Fields Horse; Troop Sergt. Major Orange River Colony Police.
Stephens, O.—Marshall's Horse; Nesbitt's Horse.
Spencer, H.—Lieut. Roberts' Horse.
Scott, C. W.—Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry.
Shiels, J.—Brabant's Horse.
Smith, H. J.—Natal Ambulance (wounded).
Shiels, B.—Sergt. Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.
Smith, J. G.—Transport.
Smailes,—Troop Sergt. Major Nesbitt's Horse.
Smailes,—Sergt. Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.
Stenteford, O.—Imperial Light Horse.
Stewart, J. C.—Kimberley Regiment.
Tugman, H. St. John—Ladysmith Town Guard.
Taylor, G. A.—Transport.
Turnbull, T. J.—Prince Alfred's Guards
Van Lelyveld, M.—Brabant's Horse.
Van Lelyveld, B.—Brabant's Horse.
Van Lelyveld, W.—Brabant's Horse.
Van Lelyveld, P.—Guide.
Williams, L. T.—Transport Service.
Wild, G.—Transport Service
Ward, A.—Natal Carbineers; Imperial Light Horse.
Westland, J.—Protectorate Regt.; Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.
Whitfield, D.—Beaconsfield Town Guard; Intelligence Officer with Lord Methuen, Col. Mahon (Relief Mafeking), Colonial Division and Col. de Lisle. (Taken prisoner Klerksdorp, July, 1900.)
Whitfield, C.—Intelligence Dept. Mafeking; do. General Barton's and Colonel Williams' columns (taken prisoner Klerksdorp, July, 1900.)
Whitfield, Alfred—Sergt. Major Kroonstad Scouts (killed).
Young,—Transport; Kitchener's Fighting Scouts.
Zeederberg, W.—Kimberley Town Guard (died)

Digitized by Google

ROLL OF HONOUR.

A KLERKSDORP V.C.

We note with very great satisfaction (say the *Spectator*) that the Victoria Cross has been awarded to two officers of that most gallant regiment, the Imperial Light Horse—to Captain C. H. Mullins and to Captain R. Johnstone. It was on October 21, 1899, at Elandslaagte, that the Crosses were won. At a most critical moment, the advance being momentarily checked by a very severe fire at point-blank range, these two officers very gallantly rushed forward under this heavy fire and rallied the men, thus enabling the flanking movement, which decided the day, to be carried out. On this occasion Captain Mullins was wounded. It was a splendid deed of arms, and we are glad to think, as splendidly rewarded, for after all there is no decoration in the world which is higher than the Victoria Cross. The Imperial Light Horse as a whole will share, and deserve to share, in the distinction, for the two captains thus honoured were typical members of the Rand corps. [Capt. Johnstone was for some time storekeeper at the Buffels Collieries, near Klerksdorp, is a magnificent football player, and was much esteemed while here.]

A DISTINGUISHED NURSE.

Miss Dorothy Betton, second daughter of Mr. A. Betton, for several years a photographer in Klerksdorp, served throughout the siege of Ladysmith as Army Nurse, and acquitted herself so honourably that she was thanked by Sir George White and received a present of an emerald necklace from Lady White in recognition of the valuable services rendered by her.

MENTIONED IN LORD ROBERTS' DESPATCHES.

Lieut.-Col. H. Bottomley, Imperial Light Horse
Captain G. Higson, Eastern Province Horse.
Captain C. Hamilton, Thorneycroft's Mounted Infantry.
Sergeant-Major W. H. Oatley, Kimberley Light Horse.
Quarter-master Sergeant W. Cartledge, Railway Pioneer Regt.
Trooper G. Latham, Imperial Light Horse

Digitized by Google

IN MEMORIAM.

WILLIAM HERBERT MONTAGUE GREATHEAD.

Montie (as he was known to his intimate friends) Greathead came to Klerksdorp a few years before the war in charge of the cyanide works at the Ariston mine. He was well and favourably known, and was a keen sportsman, spending much of his spare time with dog and gun on the veld. Before hostilities commenced he joined the Imperial Light Horse and was foremost in the fighting around Ladysmith. He was present at the battle of Talana Hill, Glencoe, and Elandslaagte. The corps was then enclosed in Ladysmith and Lance Corporal Greathead took part in all the stirring events which accompanied the celebrated siege of that town. At the battle of Platrand on the 6th January, 1900, he was in the front rank of Ladysmith's heroic defenders, and took a prominent part in the series of desperate encounters which raged around that part of the field, meeting his death from a Boer bullet while thus engaged. He was the second son of Mr. W. W. Greathead of Germiston, and nephew of Dr. J. Greathead of Grahamstown and also of Jas. Greathead, the well known civil engineer.

EUSTACE MONROE LE SUEUR.

Mr. le Sueur was one of the first British Colonials to take up arms, joining the Corps of Rimington's Guides. On the 27th November, 1899, he went with a party of four, from Modder river to Rostell's farm, some little distance off. Riding up to the house they dismounted, when a party of Boers suddenly appeared round the house. The Guides immediately mounted, but the Boers fired a volley, one bullet mortally wounding le Sueur in the back. Some of the Boers knew him and sent to the British lines for an ambulance which came out and took him to camp where he died next day, and was buried near the spot. He was the son of the late Dr. le Sueur of Port Elizabeth. For some time he filled the post of manager of Reiners von Laer's business in Klerksdorp, and made many friends during his residence here.

Digitized by Google

ALFRED L. WHITFIELD.

Alfred L. Whitfield was an old Klerksdorpian, having lived in the town and vicinity for some years, and was well known in connection with the ownership of the Witkop Pont and store. He was a magnificent rifle shot, and could always be depended upon for a grand score in any match. At the time of the war he resided with his wife and family on a farm he had acquired, near Kroonstad. During the war, while absent from the farm, the Boers turned out his wife and family and destroyed everything in the place. He afterwards served on the Intelligence staff at Kroonstad and joined the Kroonstad Scouts in which he held the position of Sergt. Major and did excellent service. On Friday, 22nd February, 1901, he went out with a party of the Kroonstad Scouts from Kroonstad. They came to a kopje running right into the river at Boschpoort (King's farm) and Alfred Whitfield with two or three men ran ahead to get a shot at some Boers they had previously seen on the other side of the river. When they got to the top of the kopje they found themselves right amongst some Boers who were in hiding on this side of the river. The native who was with Mr. Whitfield says that the other men and himself took cover but Mr. Whitfield sat down on a stone and fired three or four shots when he got a bullet right through the right breast and out between the shoulder blades. He told the boy to hand him his water bottle and had a good drink, after which he said he would soon be alright again. These were the last words he spoke. They carried him back about 40 or 50 yards and laid him in the shade of some trees, but as the Boers were trying to surround them they had to clear out one at a time under a very heavy fire. Lieut. Mann stayed with him till the last. He only lived about ten minutes after being shot. The Boers found the body, and the natives living on the farm say that they (the Boers) stood round him for a time. A number of them knew him very well. They took his watch (a gold one he won at the Klerksdorp shooting), purse, hat and boots, and then covered him with an overcoat and left him. His brother (David), and two or three others who were in another part of the field at the time, went back afterwards and brought the body in. The Boers were in sight across the river but did not molest the party in any way. The party carried the body on a horse for about two miles and then met an ambulance wagon which took it into Kroonstaad. The next afternoon (Saturday) the funeral took place, starting from the Wesleyan Church. The funeral was the largest ever seen in Kroonstad. He was buried in the military grave yard with full military honours, the band of the Buffs playing a solemn funeral march.

Digitized by Google

CHARLES SCREECH.

Charles Screech, before the commencement of the war, was a cyanide hand at the Ariston Company. When war became a certainty, he went to Kimberley, and joined the Kimberley Light Horse. He was present at the fight at Carter's Ridge, outside Kimberley, on the 29th November, 1899, when Col. Scott-Turner and 22 other gallant men were killed. Screech was shot through the head in the attack on the last Boer position, after having participated in the capture of three Boer redoubts.

TOM HAY.

Tom Hay was the son of the late Rev. W. Hay, of Grahamstown. He came to Klerksdorp some few years prior to the war. With other uitlanders he left the State at the outbreak of hostilities and went to Port Alfred, where he remained until about July 1900. He then joined the Imperial Transport Service, and while on duty met his death by a Boer bullet, but where the sad event happened we have not been able to ascertain.

GUY GRICE.

Guy Grice was for some time previous to the war Assistant Assayer at the Klerksdorp Proprietary Mines. During his residence in Klerksdorp he became a great favourite, especially in football circles, his prowess on the football field being a distinct acquisition to our local Club. He left for Natal prior to the war and upon the outbreak of hostilities joined the Natal Mounted Rifles and did good service as a scout. He took ill while in the field and was removed to the Volunteer Hospital, Maritzburg, where he died on the 7th May, 1900.

CHARLES ROSS.

Charles Ross joined the Cape Volunteer Medical Staff in October, 1899, and served in the field hospitals at Belmont, Modder River, and Paardeberg. He then went to the base hospital at Capetown with sick and wounded where he continued to do duty until April when he took enteric fever and died in May, 1900. He was much esteemed in Klerksdorp for his quiet, gentlemanly manner and strict integrity of character.

Digitized by Google

WILLIAM ZEEDERBERG.

"Willie" Zeederberg left the State just prior to the outbreak of hostilities, and made his way to Kimberley, where he joined the Town Guard, and was stationed in the most advanced post, Ottos Kopje. This post was under fire during the greater part of the siege, and the duty was very arduous. He contracted dysentry through exposure in the trenches, from the effects of which he died some months afterwards in Capetown. He was son of the late Dr. Zeederberg, and has been long identified with Klerksdorp, where he was widely known and universally liked.

Digitized by Google

THE TOWN GUARD.

The Town Guard was formed in November, 1900, and commenced its duties at once. At first these duties were very heavy, the whole strength being on outpost duty three nights out of four. At the present time half the strength is on duty every night. The duty is that of garrisoning small redoubts in the outer line of defences. The members of the Guard are supplied with uniform and full kit, and receive volunteer rate of pay. The following is the present list of members :—

Capt. W. Campbell.
Lieut. G. McKessack.
Quartermaster (Lieut.) J. Poole
Sergt. J. A. Austin.
„ S. D. Cawood.
Corpl. H. G. Allen.
„ A. J. Thompson.
„ G. Read.
„ W. F. Readman.
Lance-Corporal G. Irvine.
„ W. Thomson.
Private Aldred, M. J.
„ Blackmore, W. H.
„ Bawn, L.
„ Bawden, T. H.
„ Burney, D.
„ Boyce, T.
„ Bernstein, J. G.
„ Colyn, H. J.
„ Campbell, A. J.
„ Cawood, R.
„ Dobie, H.
„ Dunn, G.
„ Dunn, J.
„ Feene, H.
„ Falwasser, H. G.
„ Froneman, J. C. P.
„ Guest, H. M.
„ Guest, H. H.
„ Gordon, J.
„ Gordon, E.
„ Harvey, C.
„ Hollander, A.
„ Herold, J.
„ Jacobs, Jac.
„ Jacobs, J. jun.
„ Jacobs, H.
Private Jackson, J. W.
„ Kirson, A.
„ Kamenitz, A.
„ Kussell, T.
„ Kaliski, S.
„ Kaliski, A.
„ Kaliski, N.
„ Levy, A.
„ Lesar, T.
„ Lesar, M.
„ Mentzel, R. R.
„ Munro, J.
„ Murray, J. W.
„ Morton, W. G.
„ O'Reilly, H. G.
„ Putz, J.
„ Read, P. H.
„ Rowles, G.
„ Ross, A.
„ Rudolf, A.
„ Requilet, J.
„ Salmon, A.
„ Sweet, J. M.
„ Steyn, M.
„ Steyn, A.
„ Schadwill, A. F.
„ Siddle, W.
„ Swain, C.
„ Thomson, R.
„ Tolmay, D.
„ Tweedie, W.
„ Van Lelyveld, P.
„ Van Wyk, B. J.
„ Von Abo, P. O.
„ Williams, H. P.
„ Wallace, J.

Digitized by Google

LOCAL BOER LOSSES.

It is impossible to arrive at anything like a correct idea of the Boer losses in the present campaign. In the very early days of the war rolls were made and identification cards issued, but the attempt at methodical system soon petered out, and confusion reigned supreme. Burghers became defunct and others ran away home, surrendered, or migrated to other pastures. The following is a list of the *known* casualties among the Boers of the town and immediate neighbourhood, though it represents but a small proportion of the men, other than prisoners of war, whose whereabouts are unknown to their friends :—

KILLED IN ACTION.

A. P. Cronje (General P.'s son), Loogkop, near Paardeberg.
A. P. Cronje (General A.'s son), Paardeberg.
Hendrik Marais, Paardeberg.
J. Meintjes, do.
— van Rensburg, do.
— van der Westhuizen, do.
Gustav Lindenburg, Magersftein
Jan Willeman, Blaauwbank.
W. Jellinan
E. L. Conradie, Frederikstad.
Pieter Brits, do.
J. du Toit, do.
Gert Brits, do.
Gert Briers, do.
Willem Breed, Taaibosch Spruit
D. Cronje, Magaliesberg.
— Nigrini, do.
A. Boshoff.
S. Boshoff.

DIED IN CAPTIVITY.

G. J. Joubert, March 25, 1900, Simonstown.
Joshua Joubert, April 12, do.
H. (or M.) van der Merwe, April 2, do.
J. A. S. van Rooyen, April 4, do.
Henry White, April 5, do.

PRISONERS.

Captured at	Paardeberg ...	174	Captured at	Potchefstroom	1
	Jacobsdal ...	5		Vryburg ...	2
	Capetown ...	1		Zeerust ...	2
	Hoopstad ...	1		Ventersdorp ...	1
	Frederikstad	6			
	Klerksdorp ...	19			213
	Kimberley ...	1			

Digitized by Google

ANGLO-BOER WAR PUBLICATIONS.

WITH LORD METHUEN:

FROM BELMONT TO HARTEBEESTFONTEIN.

72 pp. demy 8vo, being a record of the operations of the 1st Division, including the Battles of Belmont, Graspan, Modder River, and Magersfontein, the operations at Warrenton, Fourteen Streams, Boshof, and Hoopstad, the celebrated chase after de Wet, and the fight at Hartebeestfontein. The work has been compiled from British and Boer official reports, press reports, and the experiences of officers and men engaged therein.

Price 1s. 6d., postage 3d.

KLERKSDORP MADE PLAYING CARDS.

When the Publisher returned to the Transvaal in February last there were no Playing Cards in stock in Klerksdorp, and no facilities for importing them. With the aid of a soldier who had a knowledge of carving, a chisel, and clasp knife, the blocks were cut, and the cards produced. The workmanship is not quite up to the best London make, but they are interesting mementoes of the war. Each card bears the imprint and date.

2s. 6d., by post 2s. 9d.

COMMEMORATIVE POST CARDS.

Bearing Flags of the two defunct Republics, and the Union Jack, all in colours, the Arms of Great Britain and the two departed States, and representations from process blocks, of ex-Presidents Kruger and Steyn, late General Joubert and General de Wet.

1s. per packet of 7 cards (including postage),

H. M. GUEST, PRINTER AND PUBLISHER, KLERKSDORP.

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LIBRARY
Los Angeles

This book is DUE on the last date stamped below.

SEP 25 1989
ILL CUS
REC'D LD-URL

MAR 19 1994

Form L9–Series 4939

L 005 413 23

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google